



# • INFO memo - June 18, 2004

City of Broken Arrow  
P.O. Box 610  
Broken Arrow, OK 74013  
[www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov)

Wayne Bishop, Communications Coordinator  
Phone: 259-8277 Fax: 251-6642

## **Dyer Stays Busy on New Job**

Claudia Dyer knew she wouldn't have much time for the first "R" of "R&R" when she started her new job with the City of Broken Arrow April 19. As the Manager of Recreational Programs for Parks & Recreation, she's found few opportunities for rest.

Later winter and early spring are demanding times for Parks & Recreation staffers. Dyer jumped into her new position feet-first...both feet!

Melissa Parker had been filling in as Acting Manager while the job search was conducted that led Dyer here from her post as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Recreation and Parks Society, Inc. And Parker has been invaluable in getting spring community center programs off and running. Krystal Ridenour returned to supervise the registration for the City's Learn to Swim program. As the second of the two-week sessions get set to begin next week, there are just over 800 students enrolled. That's 75 ahead of last-year's pace.

Youth volleyball began with 28 students. Adult volleyball spring leagues are in their final weeks and summer leagues begin July 1. Parker coordinates those and also the youth and adult tennis program signups, which continue through this week.

It's the work behind the scenes which has kept Dyer hopping. The Family Aquatic Center opened a concessions stand this spring with hot dogs and nachos and soft drinks. She reports that the new feature "continues to outdo itself. Continual ordering and restocking of supplies is needed on a daily basis."

Dyer worked with Coca-Cola in getting a refrigerator for water and Gatorade installed at the FAC. Last week she attended a class for Food Handlers Manager Certification and passed. The night before she attended a meeting of the Youth Council. She taught a NYSCA Cheerleading Coaches Clinic to 23 coaches. Dyer co-led a Lifeguard in-service training session and continues to monitor lifeguards and concessions workers at both the FAC and the new Country Aire pool.

Her duties also call for her to work with City "partners" like the BA Seniors, Inc., the Historical and Genealogical societies and the BA Community Playhouse, keeping those contracts up to date.

All the while, Dyer is working toward the day in July when the new Youth Center at Nienhuis Park will open to the public. Her office will be moved to that new facility, and with it will come many more responsibilities.

Rest and recreation? For Claudia Dyer, there's been plenty of recreation and little rest. And that doesn't look to change anytime soon.

## **Dads Get Special Treatment Sunday at FAC**

Fathers who come to the concessions stand at the Family Aquatic Center Sunday (Father's Day), June 20, can buy hot dogs for only 50 cents and soft drinks for 75 cents.

## **Summer Volleyball Signups Continue**

Registration for the Summer Volleyball Leagues will continue through June 20, reports league coordinator Melissa Parker of the BA Parks & Recreation Department.

Power leagues start June 28 and the others July 1. Cost per team is \$195 for Coed Intermediate 1 and the Organizational League. Both of those will have referees provided.

Parker said there will be a team limit of 10 per division in the 8-week program, with the exception of the Monday night Power Leagues. First-place prizes will be given to the final tournament.

For more information call Parker at 259-8438.

A Men's Doubles League is also being established for Thursday nights.

Parker reminds that there is still time to sign up for the Cartoon Network Tennis program. New classes begin June 22, however, so hurry!

## **Swim Lessons Underway**

The first two-week session of Learn to Swim classes at Central Pool has ended and the second is due to start Monday, June 21. But there are still openings in the final two sessions of the summer, which start July 5 and July 19.

Krystal Ridenour, Director of Registration for the program, reports that more than 800 children were signed up for the lessons, which will continue through the end of July.

Enrollment will continue through the summer, as long as openings are available. Cost of the classes is \$40. They consist of four 40-minute sessions each week for two weeks. Classes for infants and the younger children are 30 minutes long. There are classes for all levels of swimmers, with instruction by Red Cross trained personnel. To register, go to the office at the Community Center in Central Park (1500 S. Main).

## **Heritage Bluegrass Festival Set Saturday**

Broken Arrow's first Heritage Bluegrass Festival will begin Saturday (June 19) at 12 noon in Central Park, featuring seven bands from this area, as well as Missouri and Arkansas.

The program, sponsored by the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council, the City of Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Department and Harmony House Guitars, is free and open to the public. The music and fun is scheduled to continue through 10 p.m. There will be concessions sold at the site in Central Park.

Last year there was a series of informal bluegrass music sessions at Centennial Park during June. This program is being put together by some of the same individuals, including Bert McCutchan of Harmony House and Brannam Smith.

The Arbuckles Bluegrass Band will kick off the program at 12 noon, followed by Nicole Brand and Family at 12:50, IIIrd Generation Bluegrass at 1:40, Gold Rush Bluegrass Company at 2:30 and Cedar Hill at 3:20.

Arbuckles will return at 4:10, with a guitar giveaway at 5 p.m., then Brand at 5:30, Heartland Express at 6:20, Spring Street at 7:10, Cedar Hill at 8 p.m. and IIIrd Generation again at 8:50. The final 20 minutes will be an all-band gospel medley.

Next Tuesday the Concerts in the Park series returns, this time featuring the Smith Brothers.

These concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the area just south of the tennis courts and west of the Family Aquatic Center. There is no cost of admission. Some soft drinks and food will be available through vendors. Spectators may bring their own chairs, blankets, etc., but no alcoholic beverages are permitted.

The final Tuesday in June will highlight Bluegrass music.

## **City Horticulturalist Praised by Citizen**

City Horticulturalist Mark Higgins was recently thanked by a citizen who was saved hundreds of dollars in tools when Higgins retrieved a tool box and paint that fell out of a pickup truck in the city.

The citizen contacted Parks & Recreation Director Scott Esmond to praise Higgins, and explain how much money he had saved him by picking up the lost items and reporting the find.

“We’re certainly lucky to have someone with your talent and dedication as part of our organization,” said Esmond in a memo to Higgins, who has long been noted for his efforts in landscaping around City parks and facilities and his work with students.

## **And BA Cops Get Thanks, Too...**

Detective Rick Smith was commended by Police Chief Todd Wuestewald after receiving a letter from a BA couple who spoke highly of Smith’s work in a fraud investigation involving an elderly member of their family.

“I just wanted to write you and tell you how glad we are that you have such a person working with the Police Department,” said the couple who contacted Wuestewald, “and supporting the needs of folks like us. He was an outstanding example of law and order and integrity. The world needs more people like him.”

The Chief responded to Smith, saying, "I can only echo those sentiments and add my own appreciation for the work you did, not only on this case, but on a daily basis. Thank you for bringing credit to our Department."

Wuestewald also commended Brandon Gilstrap, Eric VanHorn, Gayla Adcock, Marcus Fultz, Brett Burton and Heath Arning for their work "in the investigation and near simultaneous take-down of two drug dealers in Wagoner County. Your careful investigation yielded the warrants which, with the assistance of Special Operations Team, you safely and successfully executed. Your efforts netted five arrests, three pounds of marijuana, 7.1 grams of methamphetamine, 7.2 grams of Ice meth, 1 gram of cocaine, 2.5 grams of mushrooms, \$5,912 in cash and 30 firearms.

"I've said it before, but it bears repeating: You are having an impact on illegal drugs and the quality of life in Broken Arrow. It is my understanding that neighbors and passers-by were opening applauding and cheering you at the scene. It is an important job you do, and takes a special level of dedication and professionalism. Well done!"

Two other incidents drew recognition for officers. Mike Shaw was congratulated on his efforts to stop some of the littering problems near Omaha and 209<sup>th</sup> E. Ave., who wrote three litter citations (\$150 each) earlier this month.

And officers Rick Barnett and Mark Back were commended after a citizen called to thank them for the job they did with a relative of the man who had gone "out of control."

## **Summer Volleyball Leagues Forming**

Melissa Parker of the Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Department has distributed information on the registration for Summer Volleyball Leagues at the Community Center.

The league begins July 1, with registration deadline of June 30. Power leagues begin June 28.

The 8-week program will have a team limit of 10 per division (with the exception of Monday night Power Leagues). First-place prizes will be given to the final tournament winners.

Co-ed Intermediate 1 teams play on Thursday nights and the cost per team is \$195. The Organizational League teams play Thursday night as well, also with a cost of \$195. Both will have referees provided.

For information call 259-8438 or come by the Community Center in Central Park (1500 S. Main).